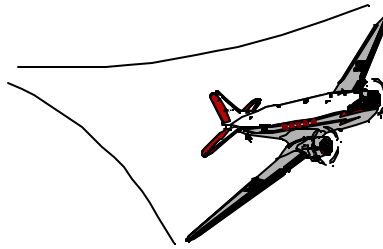


SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

Aircraft Certification Service
Washington, DC



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

No. NE-01-37
August 16, 2001

We post SAIBs on the internet at "av-info.faa.gov"

This is information only. Recommendations are not mandatory.

Applicability

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) alerts you, an owner or operator of **Textron Lycoming IO-540 and TIO-540 series engines** with 300hp or greater, that had Textron Lycoming Front Main Bearings P/N LW-13885 installed after August 24, 2000. *These bearings were shipped to Textron Lycoming between August 24, 2000 and January 31, 2001* as standard size bearings with a date code of "6-00" (without an "M" suffix after the part number). Most were installed in new engines, and some were sold as spare replacements or shipped from Textron Lycoming installed in rebuilt or overhauled engines after August 24, 2000.

Introduction

Textron Lycoming has reported 6 events of front main bearings delaminating and liberating metal particles into the oil system that ultimately accumulate in the oil filter. Textron Lycoming found one delaminated bearing after the routine disassembly of a new production engine and five other delaminated bearings from routine oil filter checks at times varying between 25 hours and 350 hours. **If this condition goes undetected, you could experience engine seizure and an in-flight shutdown.**

Textron Lycoming advised the FAA that delamination of front main bearings is a relatively slow process that you can detect through routine oil filter inspections. Field inspections have verified this method of detection (oil filter inspections). The current Textron Lycoming oil filter replacement recommendation for a new, overhauled or rebuilt engine is contained in Textron Lycoming Mandatory SB 480D and specifies the oil filter inspection intervals and oil filter inspection procedures.

Recommendations

We highly recommend that you perform these oil filter inspections to detect any impending failure of front main bearings, in *new, overhauled, or rebuilt engines that had Textron Lycoming Front Main Bearings P/N LW-13885 installed after August 24, 2000*. We also recommend that you:

- Inspect the oil filter after engine test (approx. 1 hour).
- adhere to the current Textron Lycoming oil filter inspection and replacement recommendations in Textron Lycoming Mandatory SB 480D.
- perform a careful inspection of the oil filter element at each of the filter inspection intervals.

For copies of SB 480D, contact Textron Lycoming at, 652 Oliver Street, Williamsport, PA 17701, phone: (570) 323-6181. **You can access SB 480D on the internet at <http://www.lycoming.textron.com/main.html>**

For Further Information Contact

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